

Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): An optical compensation plate comprising an optical compensation layer, wherein an anti-cracking layer of a curable adhesive agent is laminated directly on at least one surface of the optical compensation layer, said optical compensation layer is a cholesteric layer whose constituent molecules are aligned in the form of a cholesteric structure, and said curable adhesive agent comprises at least one thermosetting resin-based adhesive selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, an isocyanate resin and a polyimide resin.

2. (Original): The optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein a microhardness of the anti-cracking layer ranges from 0.1 to 0.5 GPa.

3-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original): The optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the anti-cracking layer ranges from 0.1 to 20 μm .

7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Currently Amended): The optical compensation plate according to claim [[7]] 1,
wherein the thickness of the cholesteric layer ranges from 0.5 to 10 μm .

9. (Currently Amended): The optical compensation plate according to claim [[7]] 1,
wherein the constituent molecules of the cholesteric layer are non-liquid crystal
polymers, and

the non-liquid crystal polymer is a polymer obtained by polymerizing or cross-linking
liquid crystal monomers which are aligned in the form of a cholesteric structure.

10. (Original): The optical compensation plate according to claim 9, wherein a helical
pitch of a cholesteric alignment ranges from 0.01 to 0.25 μm .

11. (Currently Amended): The optical compensation plate according to claim [[7]] 1,
wherein the constituent molecules of the cholesteric layer are liquid crystal polymers,
and
the liquid crystal polymers are aligned in the form of a cholesteric structure.

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12. (Original): A polarizing plate comprising a polarizer, a transparent protective layer and the optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein the polarizer and the optical compensation plate are laminated together via the transparent protective layer.

13. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 12, wherein the optical compensation plate and the transparent protective layer are directly adhered to each other by the anti-cracking layer in the optical compensation plate.

14. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 12, wherein, in the optical compensation plate, a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is laminated on the surface of the optical compensation layer opposing to the surface on which the anti-cracking layer is laminated.

15. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 14, wherein a material of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is at least one resin-based pressure-sensitive adhesive selected from the group consisting of an acrylic resin, a rubber-based resin and a vinyl-based resin.

16. (Currently Amended): The polarizing plate according to claim 12,
wherein the optical compensation plate is configured by laminating [[the]] an anti-cracking layer[[s]] on both surfaces of the optical compensation layer, and

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one of the anti-cracking layers and the polarizer are laminated together via the transparent protective layer.

17. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 16, wherein, in the optical compensation plate, a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a liner are further disposed in this order on the surface of the anti-cracking layer on which the polarizer is not laminated.

18. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 14, wherein a liner is further disposed on the surface of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

19. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal panel, comprising a liquid crystal cell and the optical compensation plate according to claim 1.

20. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel of claim 19.

21. (Previously Presented): An image display apparatus, which is at least one image display apparatus selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a field emission display (FED), comprising the optical compensation plate according to claim 1.

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22. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal panel, comprising a liquid crystal cell and the polarizing plate according to claim 12.

23. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel of claim 22.

24. (Previously Presented): An image display apparatus, which is at least one image display apparatus selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a field emission display (FED), comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 12.